

What is Climate Change?

Climate change (also called global warming) is an average increase in the temperature of the atmosphere near the Earth's surface and troposphere, which can contribute to changes in global climate patterns.

This increase can cause flooding of coastal areas, extreme weather events, reduction in agricultural yields, melting of glaciers and extinction of species.

Mayor Fenty considers global warming a serious environmental issue, and is challenging residents, businesses, property owners and developers to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions and help build a sustainable nation's capital.



GreenDC Week

GreenDC Week is an annual citywide, collaborative effort to educate the people who live, work and learn in the District of Columbia about energy and environmental sustainability. GreenDC Week aims to educate residents about simple yet effective actions that reduce energy consumption and climate change emissions; improve the quality of our air, water and land; and utilize green building principles.

GreenDC Week is usually held during the week of Earth Day. For more information, please call the DC Energy Hotline at: 202.673.6750

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DC Office of Property Management

DC Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development

DC Office of Planning



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DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



ANACOSTIA
WATERFRONT
Corporation



Climate Change

*** GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

What is the DC Government Doing?

Energy Audit Strategy: The Office of Property Management (OPM) will hire a professional to audit energy efficiency in District buildings and recommend actions to reduce energy consumption. DDOE's Energy Bureau conducts FREE energy surveys for single family home owners.

PC Energy Conservation: Leaving computers on overnight is estimated to cost the District between \$50-75 annually in energy costs per computer. Mayor Fenty has ordered all idle PCs be put on low-power/energy saving mode through the use of innovative software, which will significantly lower energy costs.

Cool Capital Challenge: A trail blazing effort which challenges individuals and institutions throughout DC to save enough energy to prevent one billion pounds of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in one year. Initiatives already completed or underway by the DC government include:

- Eliminating 150 Vehicles from the Fleet = 1.5 million pound CO2 reduction.
- Planted 3,000 Trees = 2 million pound CO2 reduction.
- Increase Green Energy Purchasing 2.5% = 12.3 million pound CO2 reduction.
- PC Energy Conservation Program = 8 million pound CO2 reduction.

More Trees. DDOT's Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) will plant 4,500 trees in public spaces next planting season and is working on Urban Tree Canopy goals to use as a programmatic planning tool. The District will also establish minimum standards for larger tree boxes and soil preparation for tree boxes.

CapitalSpace: The DC government is working with federal and regional partners to inventory, assess and manage the District's green space and create a more livable environment for residents and visitors. These activities will include linking parkland and open space (Green Corridors) to enrich alternative forms of transportation such as walking and biking.

What can DC Residents Do?

Use a programmable thermostat. You can program your heat and air conditioning to work less when no one is home during the day, or at night when everyone is sleeping.

Use energy-efficient appliances and lighting. Using Energy Star qualified products, the average household can save about 30 percent in utility bills. That's about \$450 per year! Rebates are also available on new appliances for all DC Residents through the [DDOE Energy Office](#).

Lower the temperature on your electric water heater to 120 degrees (F). Turn it off when leaving for extended periods of time.

Set refrigerator temperatures between 37 and 40 degrees (F). Clean the coils. Keep the refrigerator stocked, as it takes more energy to cool an empty refrigerator.

Wash full loads of dishes and air dry.

When washing clothes, use warm or cold water and rinse with cold. Air-dry clothes, but not indoors, as this creates unwanted mold and moisture problems.

Shut off lights, computers and other electronic appliances when you're not using them. Many computer monitors have a sleep mode setting that greatly reduces energy consumption.

Use shades and blinds. On hot days, draw the curtains and/or shades to keep the sun out. Remember to close doors to the outside to keep in cooler air.

Plant native trees and vegetation. Native plants have been growing and evolving in our area for thousands of years and have adapted to the local soils and climate. As a result they are more likely to thrive with minimal care, unlike exotic plants. That can mean less need for water, fertilizer and pesticides.

What Can DC Businesses Do?

In support of the Mayor's initiative, the Downtown BID is committed to helping achieve the goal of a more environmentally friendly city and a "Green Downtown DC." Among the BID's contributions to these efforts are the collection and dissemination of information about downtown developers, property management and other businesses' Green practices and strategies. This effort will be significant in helping to benchmark the current state of downtown's environment and future achievements in energy savings and Green Building practices. Encouraging Downtown owners, tenants, employees and visitors to think green is a priority of the initiative, and Mayor Fenty looks forward to building and expanding to other BIDs and areas of the District in the future.

Green Downtown DC has the following objectives:

1. Increase the number of LEED and/or Energy Star certified BID members.
2. Provide recognition and awards for Green Achievements.
3. Promote Downtown DC as a Green leader locally and globally.
4. Develop a Green Program template for BIDs around the country.

Additional Tips for Businesses to Conserve Energy:

- Switch off lights and equipment at night.
- Install energy efficient lighting. Use task lighting and reduce overhead lighting by de-lamping.
- Be energy smart with office equipment and document use. Use email instead of sending memos and faxing documents. Print on both sides and reuse paper. Recycle paper, cans and bottles.
- Encourage telework, biking and transit. Set up a Sustainable Commute plan for your employees.
- Buy ENERGY STAR products and fuel efficient vehicles.
- Enforce no-idling policies and DC anti-idling law.
- Adjust thermostats - possibly in connection with shifting to more casual/comfortable clothes policy.
- Contact DDOE's Energy Bureau for a FREE energy survey and a possible \$2800 grant for installing energy measures.